

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 20, 25, and 26 as follows:

1-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A data communication apparatus comprising:

a connector, arranged to connect to a host computer;

a receiver, arranged to receive a command from the host computer through said connector;

an analysis unit, arranged to analyze the command received by said receiver;

a transmitter, arranged to transmit to the host computer a response in accordance with an analysis result of said analysis unit; ~~and~~

a monitoring unit, arranged to monitor whether a status of said data communication apparatus has been changed; and

a controller, arranged to add information unrelated to the command analyzed by said analysis unit to the response transmitted to the host computer, and to cause said transmitter to transmit the response with the added information concurrently,

wherein in response to the command not being a command requesting a status of said data communication apparatus, said controller adds the information, which is related to a status of said data communication apparatus, to a response corresponding to the command, to prompt the host computer to issue an additional command for discriminating the status in a case where the status of said data communication apparatus, as monitored by said monitoring unit, has been changed, while said controller does not add the information in a case where the

status of said data communication apparatus, as monitored by said monitoring unit, has not been changed, and

wherein in response to the command being a command requesting a status of said data communication apparatus, said controller does not add the information to the response.

21. (Previously Presented) A data communication apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein the added information is information indicating that a change in a status of said data communication apparatus has occurred.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) A data communication apparatus according to Claim 20, further comprising a storage unit, arranged to store status information indicating a status of said data communication apparatus, wherein said transmitter transmits the status information stored in said storage unit when said receiver receives a command requesting the status of said data communication apparatus.

24. (Previously Presented) A data communication apparatus according to Claim 23, further comprising a reader, a printer, and a facsimile communication unit, wherein said storage unit stores information indicating a status of said reader, said printer, and said facsimile communication unit.

25. (Currently Amended) A communication method for use in a data communication apparatus, said method comprising the steps of:

connecting to a host computer;
receiving a command from the host computer through a connection formed in said connecting step;
analyzing the received command;
transmitting to the host computer a response in accordance with an analysis result obtained in said analyzing step; ~~and~~
monitoring whether a status of the data communication apparatus has been changed; and
selectively adding information unrelated to the command analyzed in said analyzing step to the response transmitted to the host computer, and transmitting the response with the added information concurrently,
wherein in response to the command not being a command requesting a status of the data communication apparatus, the information, which is related to a status of the data communication apparatus, is added to a response corresponding to the command, to prompt the host computer to issue an additional command for discriminating the status in a case where the status of the data communication apparatus, as monitored by said monitoring step, has been changed, while the information is not added in a case where the status of the data communication apparatus, as monitored by said monitoring step, has not been changed, and
wherein in response to the command being a command requesting a status of the data communication apparatus, the information is not added to the response.

26. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a computer-readable program for implementing a communication method in a data communication apparatus, the program comprising:

program code for a connection step of connecting the data communication apparatus to a host computer;

program code for a reception step of receiving a command from the host computer through a connection formed in the connection step;

program code for an analysis step of analyzing the received command;

program code for a transmission step of transmitting to the host computer a response in accordance with an analysis result; and

program code for a monitoring step of monitoring whether a status of the data communication apparatus has been changed; and

program code for an information addition step of adding information unrelated to the command analyzed in the analysis step to the response transmitted to the host computer and causing the response with the added information to be transmitted concurrently,

wherein in response to the command not being a command requesting a status of the data communication apparatus, the information, which is related to a status of the data communication apparatus, is added to a response corresponding to the command, to prompt the host computer to issue an additional command for discriminating the status in a case where the status of the data communication apparatus, as monitored by said monitoring step, has been changed, while the information is not added in a case where the the status of the data communication apparatus, as monitored by said monitoring step, has not been changed, and

wherein in response to the command being a command requesting a status of the data communication apparatus, the information is not added to the response.